

To: Federal Communications Commission ☐ ☐

I am submitting these comments to the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising." Local control is vital to our democracy and local franchising maintains this local control, promotes self-reliance and reduces ineffective big government. Local franchising mainly does this by giving people access to the telecommunications and media in their area, and the ability to hold telecommunications companies accountable to the needs of consumers.

Local franchises give communities a mechanism for ensuring that telecommunication companies respond to customer needs, set reasonable fees and provide adequate service. ☐☐ Franchises that communities themselves negotiate bring into existence Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) TV, tailored after the specific needs of each community. The service these stations provide is invaluable to the community in that they provide a local media, and create programs that reflect its own resources and build community.

Our local PEG stations provide people access to government meetings, public affairs, local arts and entertainment, information about what is available in the health and human service delivery system, networks for local education, and so much more. Moreover, these stations provide a forum for the diversity of ideas and opinions that keep a community and our democracy strong and vital. For these reasons, I strongly urge the FCC to rule to maintain local franchising.

Sincerely,

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